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LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPT AND NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In view of the forthcoming election to the post of the United Nations Secretary-General due to take place during the forty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly and pursuant to the attached statement of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on the African Candidature to that post, as adopted in Abuja on 30 July 1991, we have the honour, on behalf of the OAU Current Chairman and the African Group at the United Nations, under Article 97 of the United Nations Charter, supplemented by rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council and Rule 141 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, to submit, in alphabetical order, the following names of the African candidates:

1.	BOUTROS GHALI, Boutros	-	Egypt
2.	CHIDZERO, Bernard	-	Zimbabwe
3.	DADZIE, Kenneth	-	Ghana
4.	JONAH, James	-	Sierra Leone
5.	OBASANJO, Olusegun	-	Nigeria
6.	OWONO, Nguema François	-	Gabon

In communicating these names the African Group hopes that the international community will give an African the opportunity to serve in this highest position of the world Organization. If recommended by the Security Council and appointed by the General Assembly as the next Secretary-General, we believe any one of these candidates will serve with the same distinction as those Africans who have occupied other high positions in the United Nations system, such as the President of the Security Council, President of the General Assembly, President of the International Court of Justice and several other senior Under-Secretaries-General.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

In forwarding the names of the above candidates for the post of the United Nations Secretary-General, the African Group wishes to observe also that the United Nations and the United Nations system as a whole are now at a critical crossroads. The positive developments in international relations as evidenced by increasing cooperation among big Powers and higher spirit of multilateralism create new opportunities for the world Organization to play an even greater role in resolving regional conflicts and enhancing international peace and security in general, promoting global trade and development, addressing important new issues such as human rights and democratic processes, protecting the international environment and checking the menace of illegal drugs and psychotropic substances. There is also the opportunity for the new Secretary-General to consider and implement the much needed reforms of the Secretariat and the United Nations system as a whole.

This position is based on the contribution and commitment of our continent to the United Nations system and as an affirmation that Africa has, as is the case of the above-mentioned candidates, eminent individuals with proven qualifications and extensive experience in the diplomatic, management, socio-economic and political fields, for required leadership of the Organization.

The Representative of the Current Chairman of the OAU and the Chairman of the African Group at the United Nations remain available and would appreciate pursuing further consultations with members of the Security Council as well as all members of the United Nations.

We would appreciate it if this letter and its attachment could be circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Permanent Representative of
Egypt to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group

(Signed) Prof. Ibrahim A. GAMBARI
Permanent Representative of
Nigeria to the United Nations
Representative of the Current Chairman
of the Organization of African Unity

Annex

Statement of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on the African Candidature to the post of the United Nations Secretary-General

1. The OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on the African Candidature to the post of the United Nations Secretary-General established by the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government met at Abuja, Nigeria on 30 July 1991.

2. In conformity with its mandate, the Committee received and reviewed the names and qualifications of the African aspirants to the post of the United Nations Secretary-General.

3. The Committee is fully convinced that these aspirants are all eminently qualified. They are all individuals of high integrity and possess the necessary professionalism, competence and experience. Any of them if elected, can serve the United Nations with honour, commitment and distinction.

4. In this respect, the Committee strongly supports and highly commends the following African candidates whose names appear below in an alphabetical order for the positive consideration of the United Nations Security Council and subsequently the General Assembly:

Boutros Ghali, Boutros	-	Egypt
Chidzero, Bernard	-	Zimbabwe
Dadzie, Kenneth	-	Ghana
Jonah, James	-	Sierra Leone
Obasanjo, Olusegun	-	Nigeria
Owono, Nguema François	-	Gabon

5. On behalf of the OAU, the Committee appeals to the international community to give an opportunity to an African to serve in this highest position of the world Organization. This appeal is rooted not only in Africa's faithful role in and commitment to the United Nation system, but equally in the OAU's affirmation that Africa has eminent individuals as exemplified by these we are presenting, who can provide the required leadership of the Organization at political, socio-economic and managerial levels.

6. The Committee enjoins all members of the OAU, individually and severally, to promote the African candidatures in their bilateral as well as multilateral consultations with the international community.

7. The Committee mandates the African Group at the United Nations to present these candidates as appropriate to the United Nations Security Council, for its consideration and to follow up the matter.

8. The Committee resolves to remain seized of the matter.

Abuja, Nigeria, 30 July 1991